

King County Metro Transit

Budget and Potential Service Reductions Update

**Transportation, Economy, and
Environment Committee
July 6, 2011**



King County
METRO

We'll Get You There.

Importance of Public Transportation

■ Speeds our Economic Recovery & Gets People to Jobs:

- Metro provides 110 million annual rides – nearly 400,000 rides each day
- Ridership was up over 3.5% in April, over 5% in May
- 53% of all Metro trips are to work or school
- Saves money that can be spent in the local economy -- \$323 million per year for the region, \$11,600 per regular bus rider
- Over 1,350 employers purchase transit passes for their employees and over 50% of Metro's fare revenue comes directly from employers



■ Relieves Traffic Congestion:

- 95% of Metro riders have a car available – cutting bus service will put thousands more cars on our roads each day
- 40 percent of work trips to downtown Seattle and 11 percent of all workers in King County use transit to commute
- Metro moves about 115,000 people on major state routes each weekday

Importance of Public Transportation

■ Serves those with fewer options:

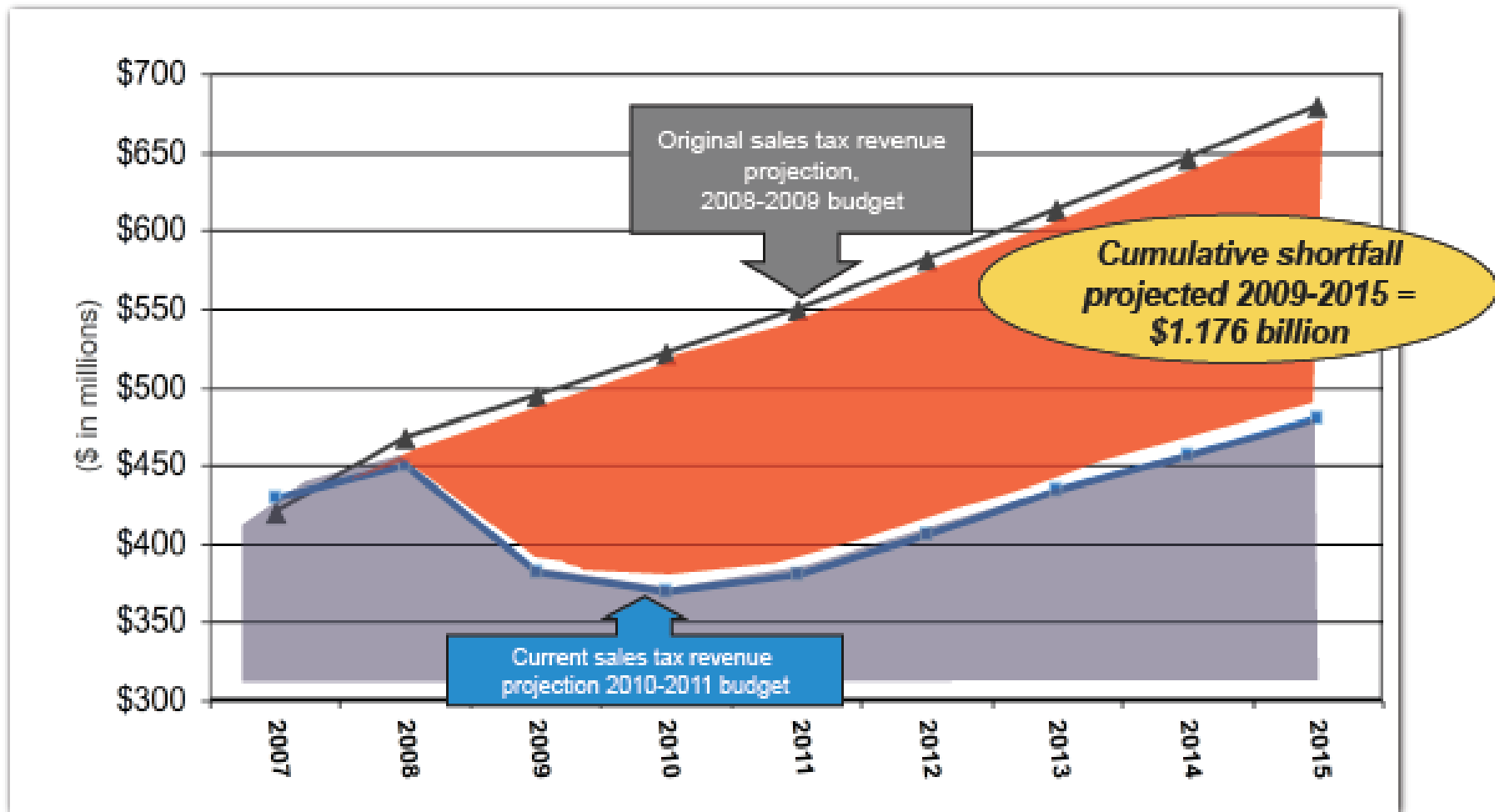
- Cost of transportation consumes a significant portion of household income, which hits low-income households disproportionately
- Jobs and school access are critical to gaining and sustaining employment
- Access paratransit reductions affect those most dependent on public transportation for their personal mobility



■ Helps create a cleaner environment:

- A single commuter by public transportation can reduce a household's carbon emissions by 10%, or up to 30% if he or she eliminates a second car. When compared to other household actions that limit CO₂, taking public transportation can be 10 times greater in reducing this harmful greenhouse gas.
- Metro plays a major role by providing transportation options that help reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled.
- Metro directly contributes to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and surface runoff through operation of a green fleet of electric and hybrid buses

Metro's Financial Challenge



What Metro Has Done

- Rider fares up 80%
- Cost-cutting labor agreements
- Spending reserves
- Efficiencies from the Performance Audit
- Increase revenue
- Staff cuts
- Some bus service reductions
- Cut capital projects
- Postpone service expansion
- Cancel bus purchases

These actions have resulted in:

\$400 million total gap closing in 2009-2011

\$143 million in annual gap closing measures

Transit Strategic Plan

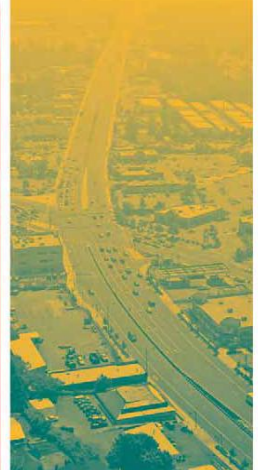
Productivity, Efficiency, Transparency

- Scheduled to be Adopted by King County Council
 - Productivity, social equity, geographic value
 - Performance measures and objective, transparent guidelines



King County
METRO
We'll Get You There

King County
Metro Transit
**Strategic Plan
for Public
Transportation**
2011-2021



Despite These Reforms...

Metro faces an ongoing \$60 million annual deficit

Options:

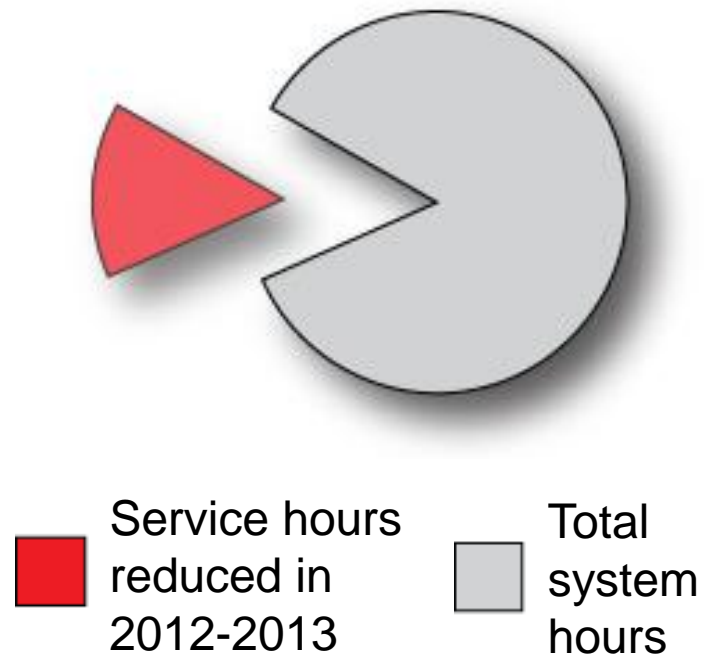
- If the temporary, two-year \$20 congestion reduction charge is not imposed
- Metro must make 17% service cuts in the next two years



Transit Service Cuts

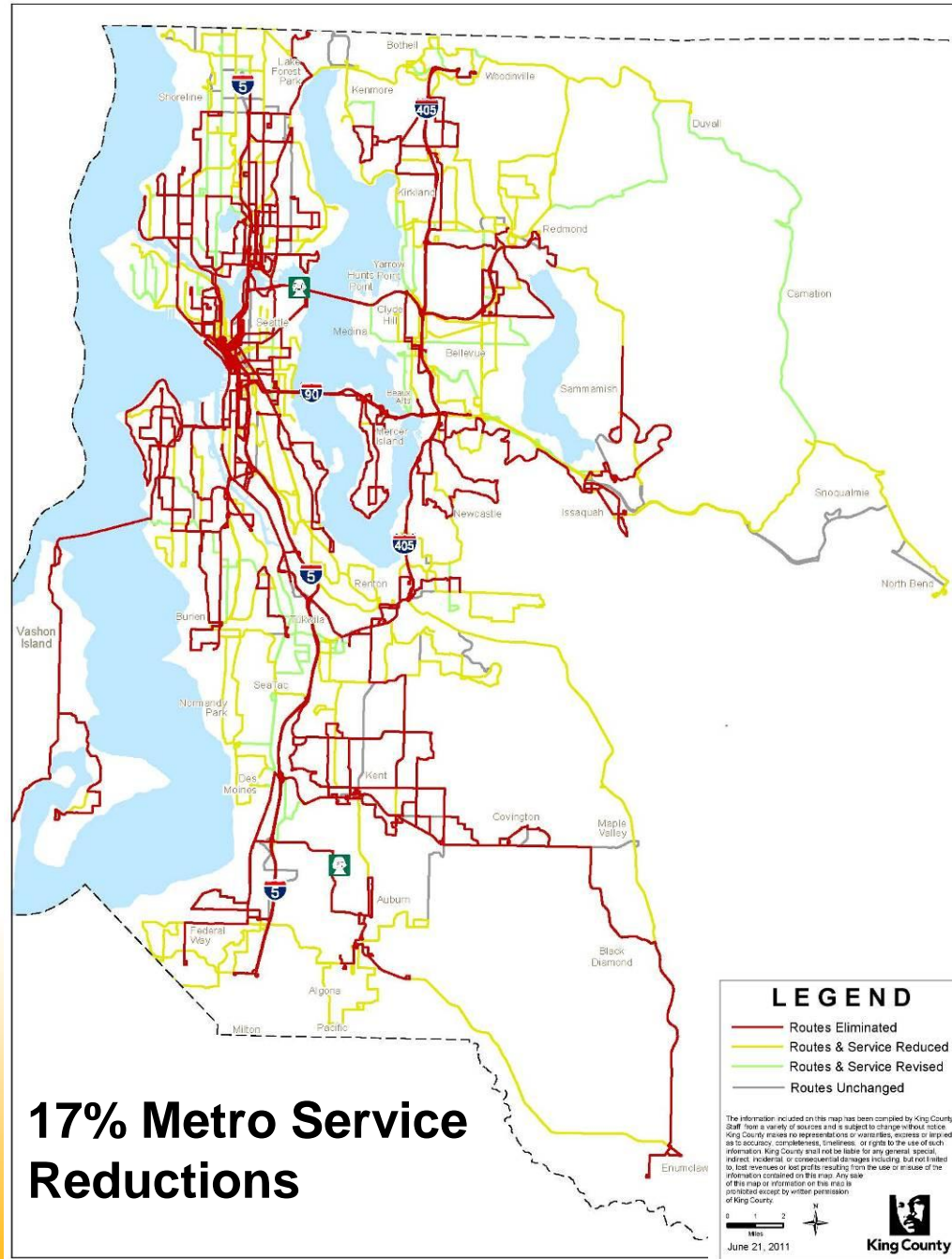
- Metro would need to cut 600,000 annual service hours
 - February 2012: 100,000 service hour reduction
 - Remainder of 2012-2013: 500,000 service hour reduction

Change to the Transit System



Proposed Service Cuts

- Up to 80% of Metro bus riders would be impacted
 - Route eliminations
 - Reduced service
 - Service revision
- 9 million annual riders displaced
 - More drivers
 - Increased congestion

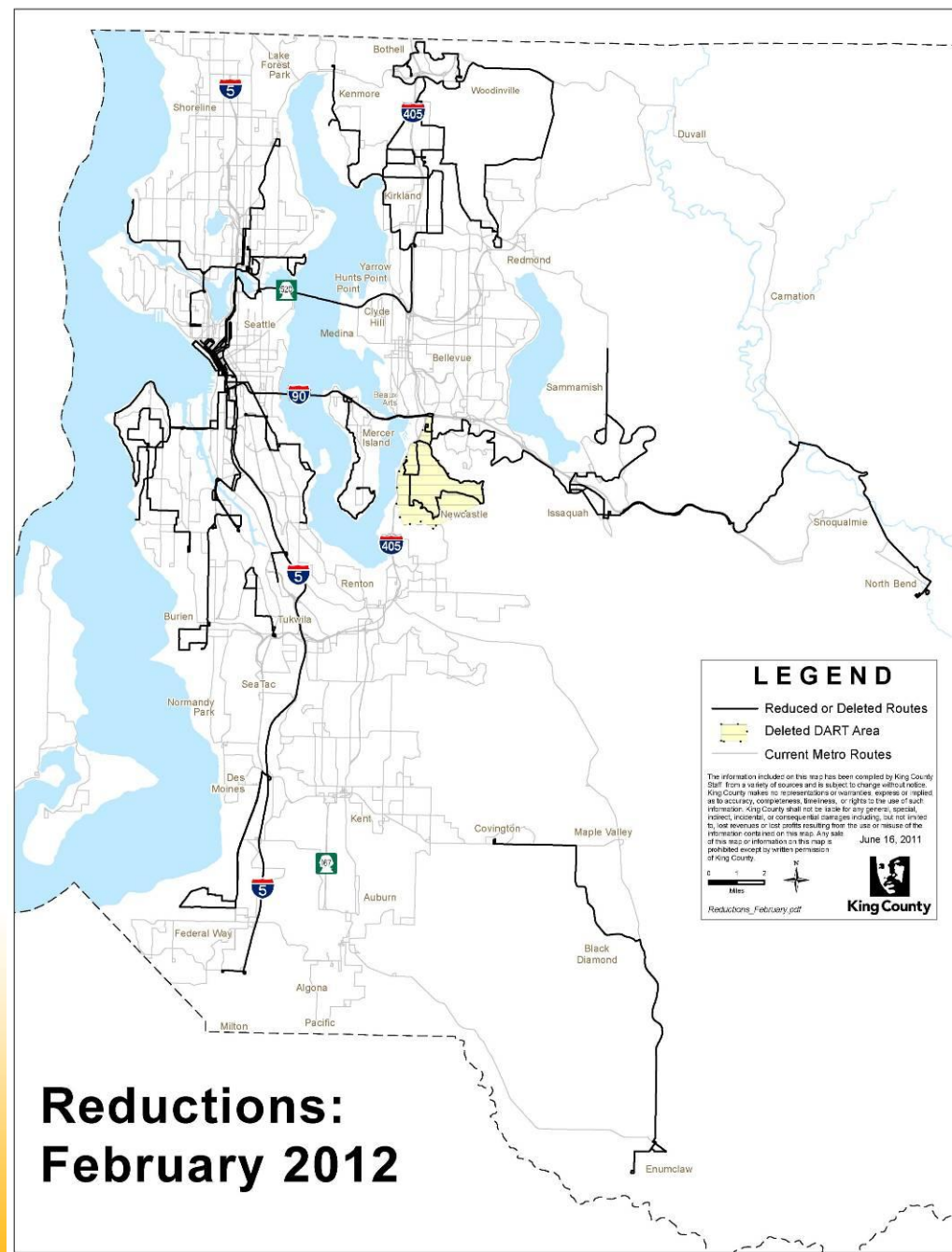


Rider Impacts

- Walk farther to, wait longer for a bus
- More crowding, possible pass-ups
- More transfers, less convenient connections
- No bus option or only at a park-and-ride
- 85 routes eliminated, 106 routes reduced or revised of Metro's 231 total bus routes
- Access Paratransit services will be scaled back to hours and areas of fixed route buses

February 2012 Proposed Service Reductions

- Follow guidelines focus on low - productivity services
- First 100,000 of 600,000 total reductions



Congestion Reduction Charge

- State authorized \$20 congestion reduction charge
 - Vehicle licenses in King County
 - Two year time frame
 - Raises \$50 million total
- Could be enacted one of two ways
 - King County Council vote: supermajority
 - Voter approval

How Metro Would Use the Congestion Reduction Charge

- Adopt *Congestion Reduction Plan* and implement strategic plan
- Use \$50 million and diminishing reserves to maintain the system
- Manage the transit system
 - Some routes would change, but the total system size would not



Decision Process

July 6 at
6:00 p.m.
Kirkland City
Council
Chambers
123 Fifth
Avenue
Kirkland,
WA 98033

July 12 at
6:00 p.m.
King County
Council
Chambers
516 Third
Avenue,
10th Floor
Seattle, WA
98104

July 21 at
6:00 p.m.
Burien City
Council
Chambers
400 S.W.
152nd Street
Burien, WA
98166

July 25
King
County
Council
decision
expected